

Sister Jean Margaret McDevitt, OSF

Professed 1966

*"Just as treasures are uncovered from the earth, so virtue appears from good deeds,
and wisdom appears from a pure and peaceful mind." Buddha*



Sr. Jean Margaret McDevitt shared her wisdom, love, and grace with all who were blessed to know her. She entered the eternal embrace of God on March 21, 2025, after 59 years as a professed member of the Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia. Born Margaret McDevitt, she grew up in Philadelphia, where her family attended St. Benedict's Parish before moving to Doylestown. There, she, along with her parents, John and Margaret Mary, and her four brothers, became part of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish. Jean Margaret graduated from Lansdale Catholic High School and went on to earn a bachelor's degree in English from Neumann University (then Our Lady of Angels College) and a Master's in English from Boston College. She entered the congregation in 1964, professing her first vows as a Sister of St. Francis in 1966, following in the footsteps of her aunt, Sister Helen Aloyse Reagan.

Sr. Jean Margaret dedicated much of her ministry to education, teaching at St. Ignatius School in Yardley, St. Ludwig School in Philadelphia, Cardinal O'Hara High School in Springfield, and Lansdale Catholic High School. A former student, Pat Doran, shared, "I have very fond memories of Sr. Jean. She taught me English at Cardinal O'Hara and invited me to dinner at the convent. We always shared good conversations."

Her ministry later expanded into communications, where she used her education, creativity, and talents to promote the congregation. She then served as vice president of planning and mission effectiveness at St. Mary Medical Center in Langhorne and as administrator of Assisi House, dedicating 11 years to these roles. At Assisi House, she cared for our elder sisters and encouraged a ministry of prayer, reaching out to local parishes to invite them to share their prayer intentions. "We try to help sisters replace things they can no longer do with things they can," she once said.

Sr. Jean continued her service as vice president of mission and ministry at St. Francis Hospital in Wilmington, Delaware, where she played a key role in developing the hospital's HIPAA policy and ensuring compliance with federal regulations. She was known for her strength and courage, exemplified by her participation in a delegation to Guatemala, where she carried five suitcases full of medical supplies to aid children in the impoverished village of Nuevo Paraíso. "We traveled almost six hours on dirt roads and through rivers to reach the village," she wrote. "There was no one who could respond to even the most basic health care needs." Deeply moved by the experience, she committed to raising funds and training health care promoters for the village. When leaving St. Francis Hospital, she was asked what she thought would happen when the sisters could no longer be present. Sr. Jean responded with faith and confidence: "I am not afraid because the seed has been planted. I believe in the people here. The Sisters of St. Francis have given a lot to this place, and it's doing well on a journey we started."

Her passing leaves a profound sense of loss among those who knew her. A friend on Facebook wrote, "Jean's passing leaves a deep sense of grief for anyone who knew her. She had many talents which she shared generously. Her quick wit and laughter will be missed." Sr. Diane Tomkinson shared, "From the time I first met Sr. Jean during my candidacy year at Resurrection in Chester, we connected over our shared love of literature, poetry, and our Franciscan charism. My parents considered her one of their adopted daughters and delighted in receiving her beautifully written cards. Across her various ministries, Jean loved offering her gifts of creativity and compassion to nurture our Franciscan life and celebrate the goodness of God reflected in others." Sr. Mary Ann McCarthy agreed and shared, "Jean was a compassionate and caring person, and I am so grateful to have been her friend for so many years. She was dedicated and determined to live her life as fully as possible to the very end." Through all those she served and the countless lives she touched, Sr. Jean's legacy of love and service will continue to shine in the world.

*All services will be held at Assisi House on Tuesday, March 25, 2025, and will be livestreamed.
Viewing will begin at 9:30 A.M., followed by Mass of Christian Burial at 11 A.M.
Burial will be in Our Lady of Angels Cemetery.*